

Message Text

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EXDIS-DOD HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR

SUBJECT: MORNING SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT REPORTS

1. GDR RAISES STAKES IN EAST BERLIN VISA DISPUTE

US MISSION BERLIN BELIEVES THE GDR HAS RAISED THE STAKES IN THE ISSUE OF ITS NEW VISA REQUIREMENTS FOR EAST BERLIN BY ISSUING A CAREFULLY DRAFTED DEFENSE OF THEM IN THE OFFICIAL NEUES DEUTSCHLAND. ACCORDING TO THE MISSION, THE ARTICLE INDICATES THE GDR NOW:

--CLAIMS THAT EAST BERLIN IS AN INTEGRAL PART OF THE GDR, THAT "FOUR POWER STATUS" NO LONGER EXISTS, AND THAT THE QUADRIPARTITE AGREEMENT APPLIES ONLY TO WEST
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BERLIN; AND

--ENVISAGES TOUGHER CUSTOMS CONTROLS IN ADDITION TO THE NEW VISA REQUIREMENTS.

EMBASSY BONN CONCURS. IT REPORTS THAT, ACCORDING TO AN FRG SOURCE, THE GDR HAS NOW REMOVED THE BORDER POSTS BETWEEN IT

AND EAST BERLIN. ACCORDING TO THE SOURCE, THIS ACTION HAS

PERSUADED THE FRG FOREIGN OFFICE THAT THE NEW VISA REQUIREMENTS ARE ANOTHER STEP TOWARD INCORPORATING EAST BERLIN INTO THE GDR AND SHOULD BE TREATED SERIOUSLY. (CONFIDENTIAL) BONN 47 AND BERLIN 12, 1/3.)

2. SOUTH AFRICA: NEW YEAR OUTLOOK BLEAK

EMBASSY PRETORIA REPORTS THAT SOUTH AFRICAN LEADERS HAVE ISSUED GLOOMY FORECASTS FOR THE MONTHS AHEAD. IN SPEECHES MARKING THE NEW YEAR:

--PRIME MINISTER VORSTER WARNED THAT THE FREE WORLD HAD LOST ITS WILL TO OPPOSE COMMUNISM, AND THAT SOUTH AFRICA NOW STANDS ALONE.

--DEFENSE MINISTER BOTHA MAINTAINED SOUTH AFRICA HAD TRIED TOO HARD TO ASSURE THE WEST OF ITS SUPPORT, AND SHOULD NOW TRAVEL ITS OWN PATH IN THE FACE OF "CONCESSION POLITICS" BEING URGED ON IT BY BOTH EAST AND WEST.

--ZULU CHIEF BUTHELEZI SAID ONLY A MIRACLE COULD PREVENT MORE VIOLENT CONFRONTATIONS IN 1977, AND PROFESSED AMAZEMENT THAT WHITES EXPECTED BLACKS TO STAND BY THEM IN DEFENSE OF A SYSTEM BASED ON APARTHEID. (UNCLASSIFIED) PRETORIA 25, 1/3.)

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3. NATIONALISTS SNUB NEW MODERATE RHODESIAN PARTY

EMBASSY PRETORIA REPORTS THAT THE FORMATION OF A NEW BLACK MODERATE PARTY CALLED THE ZIMBABWE UNITED PEOPLE'S ORGANIZATION (ZUPO) HAS BEEN GREETED WITH DISDAIN BY NKOMO'S AFRICAN NATIONAL COUNCIL. TWO OF THE FOUR BLACKS IN THE RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT ARE RESIGNING THEIR POSTS TO HEAD THE NEW PARTY, WHICH HAS ISSUED STATEMENTS CLAIMING IT WILL:

--BRING ABOUT MAJORITY RULE "IN THE SHORTEST POSSIBLE TIME;"

--SUBSCRIBE TO DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS, FREE ENTERPRISE, AND ALIGNMENT WITH THE FREE WORLD; AND

--NEGOTIATE WITH THE RHODESIA FRONT GOVERNMENT BECAUSE PRIME MINISTER SMITH IS "A HUMAN BEING" WHO "WANTS PEACE."

EMBASSY COMMENT: THIS IS NOT THE FIRST ATTEMPT BY RHODESIAN BLACKS TO PUT TOGETHER A MODERATE ALTERNATIVE TO THE MORE MILITANT POLITICAL GROUPS. EARLY INDICATIONS ARE THAT ITS PRO-GOVERNMENT TAINT WILL PREVENT IT FROM GAINING MUCH OF A CONSTITUENCY. (LIMITED OFFICIAL USE) PRETORIA 24, 1/3.)

4. RELATIONS WITH LAOS: THE VIEW FROM VIENTIANE

IN AN ASSESSMENT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH LAOS, EMBASSY VIENTIANE REPORTS THE LPDR:

--CONTINUES TO INSIST ON A US ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTION "TO BIND UP THE WOUNDS OF WAR" AS AN INDISPENSABLE PRECONDITION FOR IMPROVEMENT IN BILATERAL RELATIONS;

--REMAINS CONVINCED THE US AND THAILAND ARE SUPPORT-SECRET

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ING ANTI-GOVERNMENT REACTIONARIES; AND

--ASSIGNS AN EXTREMELY LOW PRIORITY TO THE MIA PROBLEM, CITING THE DIFFICULTY OF THE LAOTIAN TERRAIN AND THE NEED TO CONCENTRATE ITS EFFORTS ON RECONSTRUCTION.

EMBASSY COMMENT: THE FUTURE OF OUR RELATIONS WITH LAOS WILL BE LARGELY DETERMINED BY OUR RELATIONS WITH VIETNAM. SHOULD A US/VIETNAM DIALOGUE EVOLVE, THE US SHOULD BE CAREFUL TO TAKE LAO SENSITIVITIES INTO ACCOUNT AND PURSUE PARALLEL TALKS WITH THE LPDR. (SECRET) VIENTIANE 11 (EXDIS), 1/3.)
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